

INTRODUCTION

(September 12, 1969. Today I'm visiting with Eli Toliver, eighty-three years old and of Creek ancestry. Mr. Toliver lives in Murphy community of Mayes county and has been here for the last fifty years. He tells much about his experiences, the way of life and the peoples, places that he has known.)

AGE

(How old are you getting to be now?)

Well, I had a birthday the seventh--nineteenth of this month.

And if they told me right, I'm eighty-three.

(Eight-three. Well, you've lived lot longer than most folks.)

Yes, that's right.

MURPHY COMMUNITY

(Well, you saw this country over here then before they got it all torn up then, when it was good farming in there.)

Well, I had one of the best farming countries that our country ever saw.

(What became of all the poor Indians?)

Indians?

(Yeah. There used to be a lot of Indians over here.)

Oh, they all gone now.

(All gone.)

All gone.

(Yeah, the Adairs and all that Markhams.)

Markhams, yeah.

(All gone now.)

Yes sir, all gone.

(Yeah, that river bottom, I guess, had some good farms in it one time.)